

Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship Program

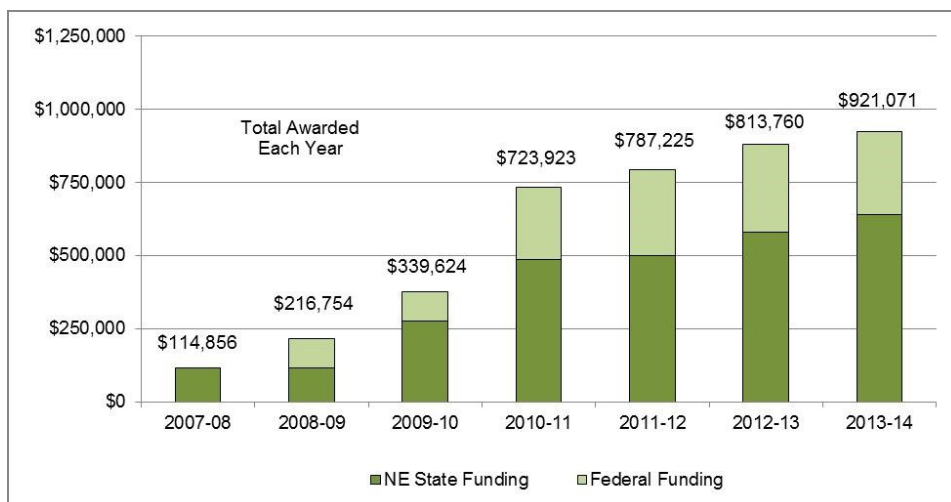
September 2015

"This program has truly been a godsend for our students and school. Without it, our students' dreams would be just that — a dream. With the program, those dreams are now realities." — Nebraska high school guidance counselor

Overview

The Access College Early (ACE) scholarship program awards scholarships to low-income high school students who enroll in a college course at a participating public or private postsecondary institution while the student is still in high school. The Commission recommended the creation of this program in 2007, funding it through the transfer of funds from a relatively inactive

program, the Community Scholarship Foundation Program, to the ACE program. (The CSFP was eliminated.) Research shows that high school students who take college courses while in high school remain in school and graduate at higher rates; enroll in college at increased rates; and return for their college sophomore years at higher rates. In Nebraska, ACE students are 30 percent more likely to go on to college than other low-income high school students.

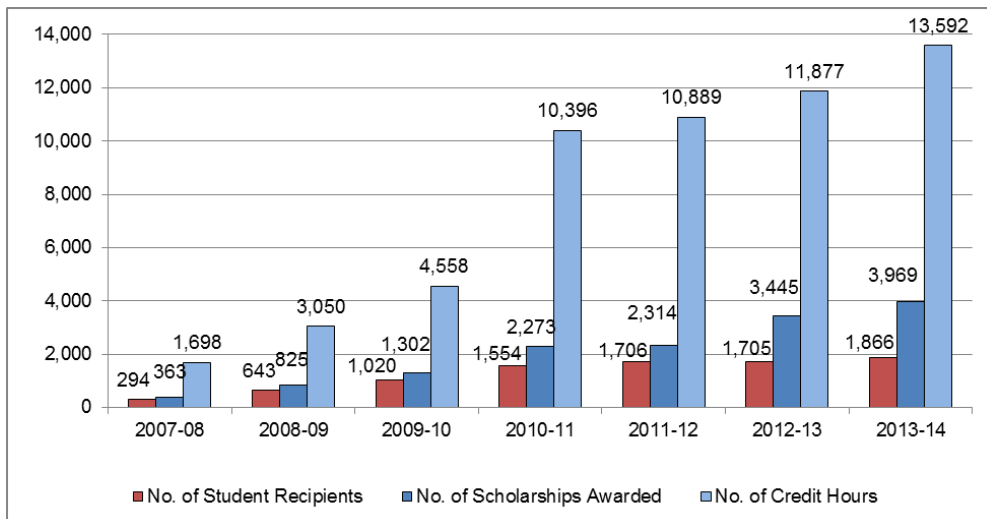


Funding

The ACE program is funded through a combination of State and federal funds. In 2013-14, State General fund appropriations accounted for nearly 75 percent, or \$685,000, of ACE funding. The remaining \$236,000 came from the federal College Access Challenge Grant (CACG), which is being eliminated after the 2015-16 academic year. The Commission will receive roughly \$48,000 in CACG funds for FY 2015-16.

Rising Demand

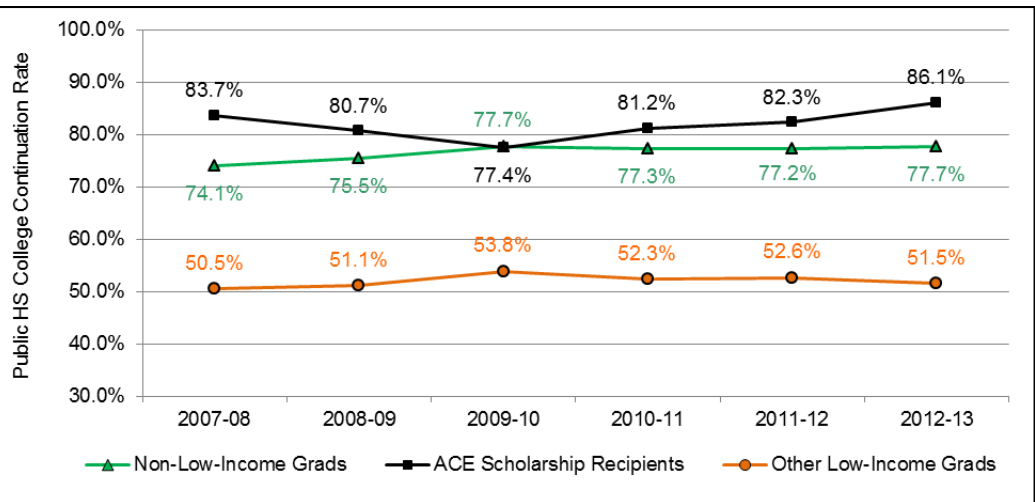
More than 1,800 students received ACE scholarships in 2013-14 and even more students are projected to receive scholarships in 2014-15. Most students qualify for ACE by qualifying for the federal free and reduced lunch program. In Nebraska, 45 percent of PK-12 students qualify for free and reduced lunch; that percentage has increased every year since 2006-07.



Proven Success

More than 86 percent of ACE students go on to college, compared to 77 percent of non-low-income students and nearly 53 percent of low-income non-ACE recipients.

Furthermore, of the 1,866 ACE students in 2013-14, 72 percent received a grade of B or better in their ACE-funded college course.



ACE — By the Numbers

217 — Nebraska high schools that participated in the ACE program in 2013-14

20 — Nebraska colleges and universities that participated in the ACE program

453 — Different courses taken by ACE students

\$232.07 — Average amount of an ACE scholarship (covers one course)

2007-08 — ACE program's first academic year of awards

85-2101— 85-2108 — Statutes that govern the ACE program

2013-14 ACE recipients by Legislative District

SENATOR	District	Recipients	SENATOR	District	Recipients	SENATOR	District	Recipients
Baker	30	33	Hadley	37	5	Morfeld	46	20
Bloomfield	17	43	Hansen	26	7	Murante	49	9
Bolz	29	5	Harr	8	21	Nordquist	7	82
Brasch	16	73	Hilkemann	4	10	Pansing Brooks	28	9
Campbell	25	9	Howard	9	18	Riepe	12	15
Chambers	11	50	Hughes	44	15	Scheer	19	40
Coash	27	6	Johnson	23	21	Schilz	47	13
Cook	13	33	Kintner	2	12	Schnoor	15	37
Craighead	6	29	Kolowski	31	5	Schumacher	22	49
Crawford	45	13	Kolterman	24	29	Seiler	33	8
Davis	43	45	Krist	10	28	Smith	14	8
Ebke	32	27	Kuehn	38	27	Stinner	48	72
Friesen	34	82	Larson	40	57	Sullivan	41	60
Garrett	3	23	Lindstrom	18	25	Watermeier	1	23
Gloor	35	158	McCollister	20	13	Williams	36	54
Groene	42	40	McCoy	39	8			
Haar	21	28	Mello	5	78			